

9. PHASIANUS VERSICOLOR.

*Phasianus versicolor*, Temm. Plan. Col. 486 & 493.

*Hab.* Japan.

4. Note sur le jeune de l'année du *Pelecanus sharpei*\*.

Par. J: V. BARBOZA DU BOCAGE, F.M.Z.S. &c.

Teinte générale d'un brun-roussâtre foncé ou couleur chocolat, noirâtre sur la tête, d'un ton plus clair (roussâtre) sur le bas du dos, le roupion, le bas-ventre et les couvertures supérieures et inférieures de la queue; couvertures supérieures et inférieures des ailes d'un brun-noirâtre avec une large bordure roussâtre; remiges primaires presque noires; remiges secondaires et tertiaires ainsi que les plumes de la queue, d'un brun clair au milieu et d'un gris blanchâtre vers les bords; bec d'un jaune sale vers la base, d'un brun plus ou moins foncé dans le reste de son étendue; poche gutturale ainsi que les tarses d'un brun clair.

*Dimensions.* Longueur totale 1<sup>m</sup>.46, aile 0.68, bec 0.35, tarse 0.145.

*Habitat.* L'Afrique occidentale, Angola.

*Obs.* Degland décrit les jeunes de l'année du *P. onocrotalus* d'un cendre blanchâtre à la tête, au cou et en dessus du corps; d'un cendré foncé au dos, aux scapulaires et aux couvertures alaires, avec les bordures d'une teinte plus claire; remiges noirâtres; bec et partie nue de la gorge et des joues livides; pied brun-cendré; iris brun.

Mr. Elliot (P. Z. S. 1869, p. 579) dit ce qui suit:—

"The young during the first year are uniform greyish brown, the lanceolate feathers of the breast being entirely wanting."

5. Note on Reptiles and Batrachians collected in various parts of China. By R. SWINHOE.

(Plate XXXI.)

1. PLATYSTERNUM MEGACEPHALUM, Gray; Günth. Reptiles of Brit. Ind. p. 43.

I procured a single specimen of this curious tortoise in a bird-shop at Canton. It is brought down the West River from the western parts of Kwangtung Province and from Kwangse. As recorded, the head, limbs, and tail are not capable of retraction within the shell; the tail is protected by curling under the right margin of the carapace. I kept my specimen alive through the winter without food.

2. DERMATOCHELYS CORIACEA (L.).

In the warm waters round Formosa the Green and the Tortoise-shell Turtles frequently occur; but these seldom show themselves in

\* See the description of this species *anteà*, p. 173.

the colder seas of the China coast. During the years I spent at Amoy I never heard of a Turtle being captured but once; this was in October 1859. It was a large old specimen of this species, of a yellowish madder-colour. I wanted to buy it to preserve; but nothing would induce the fishermen to sell it for this purpose. They said a Turtle never appears on the China coast except when some great calamity is imminent, and to avert this good men must deliver it from its captors and set it free. A Chinese firm in the town volunteered to do the good act. They purchased the Turtle, had Chinese characters cut on its back, signifying "set free for ever," which were filled in with vermilion, and, decking it with ribbons, took it in a boat in great state, with drums beating, to the outer limits of the harbour, where it was dropped into the sea. They said that if caught again the inscription on its back would protect it from meeting with further rough treatment.

The Turtle is with the Chinese an emblem of longevity.

### 3. *CROCODILUS*, sp.?

In February 1869 some Chinese were exhibiting in the native city of Shanghai what they called a Dragon, which they declared had been dug out of a hole in the province of Shense. It was a young Crocodile about 4 feet long, which they kept in tepid water. They made so much money by showing it that they refused to sell it. I cannot, of course, guess its species; but I nevertheless think the fact worth recording, as evidence that a species of this group does occur in China.

### 4. *TACHYDROMUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*, Günth. *l. c.* p. 70.

One specimen caught on the top of the city wall of Nanking. The Museum has specimens from Ningpo. It is a ground-Lizard, hiding under stones.

### 5. *EREMIAS ARGUS* (Peters).

Very common in the cultivated fields about Peking. The Museum has specimens procured by me in 1860; but mention of these was omitted when the Society was made acquainted with the specimens collected by me during the North-China campaign (see *P. Z. S.* 1861, p. 391).

### 6. *MABOUIA CHINENSIS* (Gray), Günth. *l. c.* p. 83.

Specimens from the Pescadores. Very common about the millet-fields of the largest Pescadore Island. A small race, and much spotted with black.

### 7. *EUMECES MODESTUS*, Günth. *l. c.* p. 87.

Found on the rocky bank of the Yangtsze river in a gorge in eastern Szechuen, 1300 miles from the sea. Before known only from Ningpo.

8. *GECKO JAPONICUS* (Dum. & Bibr.), Günth. *l. c.* p. 103.

From Chungkingfoo on the Yangtsze, in eastern Szechuen, 1459 miles from the sea. Found inside houses in the city, clinging to the walls, also on the trees in gardens. Delights in uttering its "chuck-chuck" note, especially in rainy weather. It is abundant in Taiwanfoo, Formosa.

9. *IAPALURA SWINHOEI*, Günth. *l. c.* p. 133.

This comb-backed Tree-lizard was before only known from the woods of South Formosa. On my late expedition up the Yangtsze I found it on the rocks among woods near Chungkingfoo. It must therefore have a wide range across China.

10. *ELAPHIS TENIURUS*, Cope; Günth. *l. c.* p. 242.

Captured at Shanghai. Has been procured before at Ningpo, in the Chikiang Province.

11. *TROPIDONOTUS QUINCUNCIATUS*, Russell; Günth. *l. c.* p. 260.

Dr. Günther says that this is the most widely distributed species of the Indian Water-snakes, extending from Mesopotamia to the south of China. My specimens are from Amoy.

12. *TROPIDONOTUS STOLATUS* (Linn.), Günth. *l. c.* p. 266.

From Amoy. This is by far the commonest Water-snake in Amoy and in Tamsuy (Formosa). In the latter place the country lads brought it to me by scores at a time.

13. *HYPsirrhina PLUMBEA* (Boie), Günth. *l. c.* p. 280.

From Amoy, where it is by no means common.

14. *HYPsirrhina ENHYDRIS*, Russell; Günth. *l. c.* p. 281.

Also procured at Amoy.

15. *HYPsirrhina CHINENSIS*, Gray; Günth. *l. c.* p. 283.

Captured at Ichang, 1111 miles up the Yangtsze river. The British Museum has specimens from China; but it is not known from what part of China.

16. *HYDROPHIS CYANOCINCTA*, Russell; Günth. *l. c.* p. 367.

This common Sea-snake is often floated into the small harbour of Takow, S.W. Formosa. My specimens are from there.

17. *TRIMERESURUS MUCROSQUAMATUS* (Cantor): Günth. *l. c.* p. 390. (Plate XXXI.)

From Formosa. Dr. Günther has made this out to be the species described by Cantor as *Trigonocephalus mucrosquamatus* (P. Z. S. 1839, p. 32), from Assam, from comparison of it with Cantor's drawing, the original specimen having been lost and no other since procured. Its occurrence in Formosa is somewhat singular. The two fine large specimens I have brought home were the only indi-

viduals I came across. One was brought to me from the interior; the other was captured at Takow, in the hall of a neighbouring Mandarin's office, having descended from the roof, in which it was lodged, by a rope on to a hanging lamp in pursuit of geckos (*Gecko japonicus*). It was tinted all over with blood-colour.

The specific characters of this snake, as kindly furnished to me by Dr. Günther, are:—

Scales in 25 rows, with a very strong keel to the tip, where it sometimes slightly projects. Ventral plates 217–220. Upperside of the head with very small granular scales; a series of larger ones along the canthus rostralis. Eleven upper labials, the second forming the anterior wall of the pit. Body brown, with a dorsal series of subrhombic, sometimes confluent spots; another series of similar more rounded spots along the lower part of the side. Each spot is of a dark brown colour, with a black margin, and generally a narrow white edge. Abdomen marked with brownish, each ventral shield having an ovate whitish spot on each side.

18. *TRIMERESURUS ERYTHRURUS* (Cantor), Günth. *l. c.* p. 386.

From Takow, Formosa. This is the first occurrence of this little green viper in Formosa. I have seen it frequently at Amoy; it is a bush-loving species, climbing to the top of plants, and coiling itself round the stems and leaves. Being of a fresh-green colour, it is not easy to detect; and while catching insects I have very narrowly escaped brushing my hand over the poisonous creature. The Chinese declare its bite to be fatal.

19. *HALYS BLOMHOFFII* (Boie), Günth. *l. c.* p. 393.

A specimen of this spotted brown Viper was brought on board the gunboat by some of the crew who had been on shore at Ichang, on the Yangtze. It is known from Japan and Formosa; but this is the first instance of its occurrence in China proper.

20. *RANA GRACILIS*, Wiegman; Günth. *l. c.* p. 409.

From Ichang. A common Frog in the rice-fields.

21. *RANA SILVATICA*, Leconte; Günth. *l. c.* p. 409.

From Ichang. Found in woods, among the dead leaves and decaying herbage.

22. *DIPLOPELMA PULCHRUM* (Hallowell); Günth. *l. c.* p. 417.

From Ichang. I have met this wee Frog in various parts of China and Formosa. During the rains of spring and midsummer it occurs in thousands about grassy places. It does not resort much to wet rice-fields.

23. *HYLORANA MACRODACTYLA*, Günth. *l. c.* p. 424.

From Ichang. Does not climb trees, but keeps much to the damp ground about woods.